

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7458
SECDEF WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE
CINC EUR VAIHINGEN
CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG
CINC USAFE RAMSTEIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MPOL, MNUC, PARM, GW, US
SUBJECT: FRG OPPOSITION COMMENTS ON ER/RB WEAPON

FOLLOWING ARE INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATIONS OF COMMENTS
MADE APRIL 6 BY CDU/CSU OPPOSITION LEADER AND CDU
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CHAIRMAN HELMUT KOHL, AND BY CSU LEADER FRANZ JOSEPH
STRAUSS.

1. KOHL STATEMENT (RELEASED IN PRESS SERVICE OF THE
CDU/CSU BUNDESTAG CAUCUS).

BEGIN TEXT

THE FRG AND FREE EUROPE CAN PERMANENTLY MAINTAIN THEIR SECURITY AND THEIR INDEPENDENCE ONLY IN ALLIANCE WITH THE UNITED STATES. WHOEVER PLACES IN QUESTION THE CLOSE PARTNERSHIP AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE FRG AND AMERICA ENDANGERS THE MOST IMPORTANT FOUNDATION OF OUR FREEDOM AND SECURITY AND THAT OF FREE EUROPE.

FOR THE CDU/CSU, THE GERMAN-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP THUS WAS AND REMAINS SINCE THE TIME OF KONRAD ADENAUER A BASIC PILLAR OF ITS POLICY REGARDING PEACE AND SECURITY. FRIENDSHIP INCLUDES AN UNDERSTANDING FOR THE REQUIREMENTS OF AMERICAN POLITICS. MOREOVER, FRIENDSHIP AND PARTNERSHIP ALSO INCLUDE MUTUAL CONSULTATION AND DISCUSSION BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS AND IN ALLIANCE FORA.

PRESIDENT CARTER FACES A DIFFICULT AND FAR-REACHING DECISION IN THE QUESTION OF PRODUCTION OF THE NEUTRON WEAPON, A DECISION WHICH IN HIGH MEASURE AFFECTS THE INTERESTS OF THE ALLIES. THE CDU/CSU THUS DIRECTS AN URGENT APPEAL TO THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT TO CONSIDER CAREFULLY ALL ASPECTS RELATING TO HIS DECISION, ALSO FROM THE STANDPOINT OF POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE QUESTIONS OF TRUST AND RELIABILITY OF COMMITMENTS MADE TO FRIENDLY PARTNERS IN EUROPE.

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THE CDU/CSU HAS EXPRESSED ITSELF ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS IN THE BUNDESTAG, AND MOST RECENTLY IN A FEBRUARY 21 UNANIMOUS DECLARATION OF THE CDU/CSU BUNDESTAG MEMBERS, FOR THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE NEUTRON WEAPON IN THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE.

IN LIGHT OF THE 350 SOVIET SS-20 MIDDLE-RANGE ROCKETS ALREADY IN PLACE, OF SOVIET TANK SUPERIORITY IN CENTRAL EUROPE - WITH OVER 27,000 WARSAW PACT ARMY TANKS (INCLUDING THE STRATEGIC RESERVES), AS OPPOSED TO 7,000 NATO TANKS - A RENUNCIATION OF PRODUCTION OF THE NEUTRON WEAPON WITHOUT A USSR GESTURE IN RETURN WOULD REPRESENT AN IMPORTANT SUCCESS FOR THE SOVIET UNION. THIS SUCCESS, ACHIEVED ON THE BASIS OF A POWERFUL PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN, WILL ENCOURAGE MOSCOW TO FORCE FURTHER DISARMAMENT MEASURES FROM THE WEST WITHOUT MAKING GESTURES OF ITS OWN.

THE CDU/CSU HAS ALWAYS STOOD FOR A POLICY OF PEACE AND GENERAL DISARMAMENT AND FOR LIMITED ARMS-CONTROL MEASURES. SUCH MEASURES MUST HOWEVER BE

BALANCED AND RECIPROCAL. THIS MUST ALSO APPLY TO THE
NEUTRON WEAPON.

THIS DECISIVE VIEW OF THE CDU/CSU HAS FROM THE
BEGINNING STOOD IN CONTRAST TO A STRONG SPD CAMPAIGN
AGAINST THE NEUTRON WEAPON. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SPD AND
OF THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL, WILLY BRANDT, AND HIS
PARTY EXECUTIVE-SECRETARY EGON BAHR, HAVE PLACED

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7459

SECDEF WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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THEMSELVES IN AN IRRESPONSIBLE MANNER AT THE HEAD OF THIS CAMPAIGN, AND THEY HAVE NOT HESITATED TO ACCUSE THE OPPOSITION OF "HUNGER FOR ATOMIC WEAPONS" AND "PERVERTED THINKING." MOSCOW HAS THUS FROM THE UNCLASSIFIED

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BEGINNING HAD WELCOME WITNESSES FOR THE PROSECUTION OF ITS PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN.

IN THE FACE OF ALL OF THIS, THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE SPD, CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT, HAS REMAINED SILENT. HE HAS ALSO NOT DEFENDED HIS FOREIGN MINISTER, WHEN THE LATTER STOOD UNDER VERY STRONG ATTACK FROM THE SOVIET UNION.

IF IT IS NOW LEARNED FROM PRESS REPORTS THAT THE FEDERAL SECURITY COUNCIL UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE CHANCELLOR HAD ALREADY IN JANUARY, AND AGAIN IN MARCH, SPOKEN OUT IN FAVOR OF STATIONING THE NEUTRON WEAPON ON FRG TERRITORY, THEN THE SILENCE OF THE CHANCELLOR WITH REGARD TO THE CAMPAIGN OF HIS OWN PARTY IS IRRESPONSIBLE AND DETRIMENTAL TO THE INTERSTS OF OUR COUNTRY. UNTIL THIS DAY, HE HAS LEFT THE PUBLIC IN THE DARK ABOUT THE REAL POSITION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, OUT OF FEAR OF THE REACTION OF THE LEFT-WING IN THE SPD.

NO ONE CAN EXPECT THAT THE POLEMICS IN THE FRG AND IN OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ARE WITHOUT EFFECT ON OUR AMERICAN ALLIES. CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT, WHO HAS THE DUTY EFFECTIVELY TO REPRESENT GERMANY'S SECURITY INTERESTS, SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THIS. END TEXT.

2. IN A TV INTERVIEW GIVEN THURSDAY EVENING, APRIL 6, CSU CHAIRMAN FRANZ-JOSEF STRAUSS ALSO COMMENTED ON THE NEUTRON WEAPON. EXCERPTS FROM THOSE REMARKS, IN AN INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION, FOLLOW.

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MY POLITICAL FRIENDS IN THE CDU/CSU AND I HAVE FROM THE BEGINNING FAVORED A CLEAR "YES" TO THE PRODUCTION AND TO THE STATIONING OF THE NEUTRON WEAPON IN EUROPE AND ALSO IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. WE REGARD

IT NECESSARY IN THE INTEREST OF OUR SECURITY. I BELIEVE THAT THE MILITARY LEADERSHIP OF THE ALLIANCE, AS WELL AS MANY POLITICIANS ... HOLD THE SAME OPINION. UNFORTUNATELY THE NEUTRON WEAPON HAS BEEN DRAWN INTO THE ARENA OF PARTISAN CONTROVERSY. I REGARD IT AS A SIN AGAINST ... OUR SECURITY FOR PARTY CONVENTIONS TO MAKE DECISIONS ON THE CONSTRUCTION OR NON-CONSTRUCTION OF SUCH WEAPONS I SEE NO VIRTUE IN REGARDING THE WEAPON AS A NEGOTIATING OBJECT, BECAUSE TANKS CAN BE WITHDRAWN VERY QUICKLY ... AND RETURN IN A FEW DAYS. THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEUTRON WEAPON, WHOSE DEVELOPMENT I REGARD AS VIRTUALLY COMPLETED, WILL TAKE ANOTHER TWO YEARS. THAT MEANS, IN THE EVENT THE TANKS COME BACK, WE WOULD HAVE NO NEGOTIATING OBJECT.

THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT SHOULD BASE HIS DECISION ON THE INTERESTS OF AMERICAN SECURITY AND ALLIANCE OBLIGATIONS, NOT ON PRESSURE FROM CERTAIN DEPUTIES OR CERTAIN NEWSPAPERS OR CERTAIN ECONOMIC GROUPS.... IT'S NOT OUR JOB SIMPLY TO HELP THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT. IT'S OUR TASK TO REPRESENT EUROPEAN AND ABOVE ALL GERMAN INTERESTS. OUR SECURITY INTEREST IS DOMINANT HERE. THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT MUST CONSIDER HIS DECISION VERY THOROUGHLY. HE COULD ... PERHAPS DESTROY AMERICAN-EUROPEAN TRUST OR THE TRUST WHICH EUROPEANS HAVE IN AMERICANS. IF THAT SHOULD HAPPEN ... IT MIGHT NOT BE REESTABLISHED IN YEARS. AT PRESENT, WE VIEW WITH GREAT CONCERN THE DEVELOPMENT OF AMERICAN POLICY WHICH INCREASINGLY SHOWS UNCERTAIN LEADERSHIP AND WEAK LEADERSHIP AND WHOSE CREDIBILITY IS BECOMING MORE AND

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7460

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MORE QUESTIONABLE IN CERTAIN FIELDS.

AMERICAN POLICY IS LESS CALCULABLE THAN, FOR
EXAMPLE, SOVIET POLICY IS. THAT PRODUCES A LARGE
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AMOUNT OF UNCERTAINTY FOR THE SOVIETS, BECAUSE THEY
... ALWAYS SEEK A PARTNER WHOM THEY CAN SERIOUSLY
CALCULATE AS AN OPPONENT. ... AMERICAN POLICY DOES
NOT FILL THAT ROLE TODAY. AS EUROPEANS, WE CAN ONLY
MAKE REQUESTS AND GIVE ADVICE. WE CAN ONLY STRESS THAT
WE VIEW FRIENDSHIP WITH THE USA AS AN ESSENTIAL
PART OF OUR POLICY. THERE IS NO EUROPEAN POLICY
AGAINST THE AMERICANS, AND THERE IS NONE WITHOUT THEM.
BUT IF THINGS GO ON LIKE THIS, UNCERTAINTY WILL RUN
RAMPANT.

WITH REGARD TO SOVIET POLICY ... ONE CAN ASSUME
THAT MOSCOW PLANS AND TIMES ITS MOVES CAREFULLY. NOW
THAT EURO-AMERICAN RELATIONS HAVE ENTERED A CRITICAL
PHASE - MAINLY BECAUSE OF THE UNCERTAINTY OF THE

AMERICANS BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF THE INDECISIVENESS OF
THE EUROPEANS, AS WE SEE IN THE WRETCHED BEHAVIOR
OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND THE PARTIES WHICH SUPPORT
IT WITH REGARD TO THE NEUTRON WEAPON - MOSCOW NATURALLY
SEES IN THE BREZHNEV VISIT A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO MOVE
THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC A BIT AWAY FROM THE WESTERN
ALLIANCE AND CLOSER TO MOSCOW. END TEXT.
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